

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as follows::

Abstract

The invention concerns a method and apparatus for increasing the capacity and precision of a portion cutter wherein the items are positioned abutting each other. In particular, the invention relates to providing means (2) for identifying the boundary between consecutive items (100) to be cut when they are placed on the conveyor (1) abutting each other without any gab between them.

A method and an apparatus for increasing the capacity and precision of a portion cutter wherein the items to be portion cut are positioned abutting each other. In particular are provided means for identifying a boundary between consecutive items to be cut when the items are placed on a conveyor abutting each other with little or no gab between the items. At least one characteristic is measured for each of the items, and at least one process parameter is controlled in order to achieve predetermined product portions from the items based on the measured characteristic.